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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

18 October 1950

DAILY KOREAN SUMMARY

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Date: 16/2/77 By: 023I. Military SituationHighlights

The UN drive on the North Korean capital of Pyongyang continued on all sectors against generally weakening opposition. Leading elements of the ROK 1st Division are only eight miles east of the city, while to the south units of the US 1st Cavalry Division moved to within 17 miles of Pyongyang, after capturing the town of Hwangju. On the east coast of North Korea, the ROK Capital Division captured the twin industrial cities of Hungnam and Hamhung, about 120 miles north of the Parallel.

Ground

Forward elements of the ROK 1st Division have been reported only eight miles east of Pyongyang. Leading elements of the US 1st Cavalry Division are advancing against spotty resistance only 17 miles south of Pyongyang. In the central portion of the front, the ROK 8th Division moved north to cut the enemy's main east-west supply route at Yangdok. On the east coast, the ROK Capital Division occupied the important cities of Hungnam and Hamhung while other divisional elements captured the large airfield at Yonpo in good condition. South of the 38th Parallel, elements of the US IX Corps engaged large enemy groups in the Kumchon-Chungju area. Turkish troops have arrived at Pusan.

Navy

Carrier-based UN aircraft damaged enemy communications and various targets of opportunity in northeast Korea. UN naval craft shelled military targets in the Songjin area, on the east coast of North Korea.

Air

Despite unfavorable weather, UN air forces flew 305 effective sorties, including 153 combat, hitting enemy gun positions, supply areas, and troop concentrations. Bridges in northeast Korea were struck, and the

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Sinanju bridge approaches were sown with delayed-action bombs. The destruction of enemy transport is forcing the North Koreans to use ox-drawn supply carts.

II. General Situation

Official dispatches and press reports from Seoul indicate that President Rhee is continuing his efforts to extend administrative control to North Korea regardless of the recent UN action restricting his authority for an interim period to South Korea. Charge Drumright reports from Seoul that Rhee did not receive his representations regarding utilization of ROK police with good grace. Rhee's attitude was one of defiance of the UN and determination to incorporate North Korea into the ROK as speedily as possible. Late press reports from Seoul state that Rhee has dispatched governors to the liberated North Korean provinces and quote him as promising "land reform" in North Korea as soon as possible.

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